

ENERGY TIDBITS – April 2007

Calvin College presented a seminar on wind energy to a very special guest on February 20 at the college's Bunker Interpretive Center. Governor Granholm, who has made alternative and renewable energy a focus for her administration, sat front and center as professor Matt Heun and his students presented recent Calvin efforts to harness the power of the wind, including a grant from the Energy Office to install a 1.8 kW demonstration turbine on campus.
<http://www.calvin.edu/news/releases/2006-07/granholm-visit.htm>

Wren's Nest B&B in West Bloomfield has been certified as a Partner in the Green Lodging Michigan program. The Wren's Nest was one of the first lodging facilities certified under this joint program of the Energy Office & the Dept. of Environmental Quality. Green Lodging Michigan encourages hotels, resorts, motels, and B&B's to implement green practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, protect air quality, and reduce waste.
www.thewrensnestbb.com/

Earth Day Expo will be held on Saturday, April 21, 10-6 at the Oakland Center, Oakland University. The expo will feature demonstrations of healthy, natural, and ecologically-friendly products, presentations by experts, music and entertainment, kid's activities, workshops, alternative fuel/vehicles, renewable energy displays, and an eco film festival, www.earthdayexpo.org.

Cameron Diaz will visit the Michigan Energy Fair in Manistee on June 22-24. She says she will become a blonde again in support of solar energy and will get a "wind swept" hair do for the Fair to honor the wind energy industry. Come to the Fair and say hi to Cameron.

Midwest Green Building Conference will be held on April 24-25 at the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe. Keynote speakers are Terry Gips on the "Natural Step for Business" and Norm Strong, F.A.I.A., Vice-President of the AIA on "Going Beyond Green." Architects, tradespersons, design professionals, interior designers, engineers, facility managers and owners, students, & faculty should attend. Contact: svenier@ihmsisters.org or 734-240-9754.

Secret Alien Technology from UFO crashes can be used to stem climate change according to a former Canadian defense minister. Paul Hellyer is demanding governments worldwide disclose and use the advanced propulsion systems or fuels from alien spacecrafts.

Clean Cities Grant from the Energy Office will provide \$24,500 to a Michigan community to develop local markets and the infrastructure for alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. One grant is available to defray a portion of the administrative expense of developing a Clean Cities designation application. Contact Tim Shireman at (517) 241-6281 or e-mail tashire@michigan.gov to

obtain a copy of the Request For Proposal. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2007.

Reduce Energy Use: BestPractices & Innovative Solutions conference for industry will be held on May 3 at the NextEnergy Center in Detroit. www.reduce-energy-use.com

Australia will be officially making the switch away from incandescent bulbs. Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull has said that the country would phase out inefficient lighting over the next three years, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions hundreds of thousands of tons a year and cutting household lighting costs up to 66 percent. Similar bulb-banning campaigns are gaining steam in the U.K. and California, with compact fluorescents appearing as the leading alternative.

2007 Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Statewide Conference will be held on April 25, 8:00-5:00 at the Hannah Center in East Lansing. Contact: www.michigan.gov/deq look under News & Events, Training & Workshops.

Renewable Portfolio Standard legislation has been introduced by Sen. Patricia Birkholz (SB 213) that sets a 10% renewable energy mandate by 2015, Sen. Roger Kahn (SB 219) that sets a 7% mandate by 2015, and Rep. Howard Walker (HB 4319) that sets a 7% mandate by 2015.

Embracing Our Earth III will be held on April 28, 10:00-5:00 at Laker Schools, Pigeon. Contact: Kathy Dickens, kdickens@lakerschools.org or (989) 453-4605.

MPSC approved the following recommendations made in the staff's report on utility interconnection issues: 1) utilities will file interconnection reports every 6 months, 2) MPSC staff shall establish a workgroup to develop faster and less complex interconnection procedures for 10-kW-and-under projects, 3) MPSC staff shall convene a separate workgroup for interconnection projects of 30 kW or larger, and 5) Michigan Renewable Energy Program Ratemaking and Net Metering Committee shall form a task force to seek a new consensus and report to the Commission within 90 days on a simplified approach for net metering for inverter based systems smaller than 10 kW.

2007 Affordable Comfort Home Performance Conference will be April 23rd to 27th in Cleveland. This year there is a strong emphasis on Home Performance Providers as well as great technical sessions for weatherization, rehab and remodeler contractors. www.affordablecomfort.org

Ford Motor Company has earned the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR 2007 Partner of the Year Award in Energy Management. Ford is the first automaker to receive the award two years in a row. In 2006, Ford improved energy efficiency in the U.S. by 5% resulting in savings of approximately \$25 million. Since 2000, Ford's

U.S. facilities have improved energy efficiency by 25%. Ford replaced lighting fixtures with ones that use 40% less energy and was also cited for developing new technology in its paint shops, historically the largest energy users within auto plants. Ford's new Paint Shop of the Future, being piloted at the Ohio Assembly Plant, consolidates the application of primer, base and clearcoat into a single step. By eliminating the need for separate applications, spray booths and ovens, Ford is realizing significant energy and cost savings. In addition, the patent-pending Fumes-to-Fuel process developed by Ford and Detroit Edison, converts paint fumes into electricity that is returned to the plant power grid. Ford also relies on alternative energy sources like geothermal cooling, landfill gas reclamation, hydroelectricity, wind and solar technology to power manufacturing plants. In the U.S., renewable power supplies 5% of Ford's energy needs.

EnergySmart Schools Incentives are available from the Michigan Energy Office to encourage Michigan K-12 public school districts to integrate energy education into their curriculum during the 2007-2008 school year. Extra-curricular activities that compliment the energy curriculum may also be proposed. Awards of up to \$6,000 per district for 3 to 4 school districts will be made for faculty workshops and educational materials for students. Contact Tim Shireman at tashire@michigan.gov

Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on April 21, 2007 (9 AM - 5 PM) at the Environmental House, 2420 S Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor. Contact: www.glrea.org

April Fools if you believed Cameron Diaz will be at the Michigan Energy Fair. Then again, who knows who might show up in Manistee. See you there.

Energy Tidbits is free. To subscribe, contact me at sarverj@michigan.gov. Please note that my email address has changed.